

Chief's Update June 29, 2012

Dear Tempe Police Employees,

Employees have been discussing the desire for a new Tempe police patch for several months – one that is visually distinct, captures the essence of our organization, reflects our community and honors the legacy those who have served before us.

Representatives from the Tempe Officers Association got together and reached out to Tempe Officers to see if there was consensus on the desire for a new patch. When it was determined to move forward, an invitation was extended to officers to participate in the design and selection process, with a majority consensus eventually reached.

One of my top priorities has been to ensure that we stay focused on employees, ensuring direct involvement and collaborative decision-making. This priority is reflected in one of our Strategic Plan core goals: a supportive environment for employees. Earlier this week, TOA President Jeff Millen announced that the new patch now is available for purchase.

A special thanks to Sgt. Jeff Millen, Sgt. Kurt Mayer and the eleven committee members who worked so hard to include everyone's input and ideas, and created multiple design iterations. Sworn officers will transition to the new patch on September 10, 2012. Please take the time to plan accordingly. Officers that have questions or need additional information relative to the patch transition may contact Sgt. Jeff. Millen.

Civilian staff who wear uniforms, specifically ID techs and traffic enforcement aides, will not be required to transition to the new patch, nor to change uniforms. We will however, work with these specific work-groups to get their thoughts on potential changes to their respective uniforms if they desire change. Detention staff is in the process of working with their command to develop a new uniform and patch.

All members of the Tempe police department, as well as retired officers who have worn the uniform, can be very proud of this beautiful new patch. Incorporated into the design are the distinctive landmarks of the Mill Avenue Bridge, Hayden Mill and Tempe Butte, along with the year that Tempe was formally established in 1871 – nearly 150 years of pride and dedication!

Our new patch is indeed a symbol of our dedication to and pride in the Tempe Police Department. Dan Miller at the Tempe Museum provided photos of our previous patches - revealing a great historical perspective of our agency, which you can see below. This new patch will continue to build on the Tempe Police Department's legacy of honor as we serve and protect our Tempe community.

The summer is upon us, with many employees and families taking vacation over the next several weeks. I encourage you to relax, rejuvenate and have fun during your time off. My sincere thanks to all of you for your contributions and hard work.

Stay safe and have a great summer!

Sincerely,

Tom

